and 147.3 lakh M.Ts., respectively. The net availability of pulses, including gram during the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 is estimated as 20.1 kg., 16.2 kg. and 17.3 kg, per capita per annum, respectively.

(d) Palmolein imported by STC on Government account is allotted to State Government/U.T . Administrations for distribution through the PDS. Palmolein oil and pulses imported under OGL are distributed through the normal trade channels.

PDS in hilly and remote areas

1767. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to Starred Question 313 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state the steps taken to provide PDS to the hilly, remote and far flung areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : Strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continuous process. In order to improve the reach of the PDS in the chronically food deficit regions of the country, Blocks covered under area specific programmes such as Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) Designated Hill Area (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) were identified for coverage under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in consultation with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to initiate measures to open additional fair price shops, issue additional ration cards create or hire additional storage capacity and make arrangements for doorstep delivery of PDS commodities to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the RPDs Blocks. Progress in the implementation of PDS and RPDS is reviewed from time to time at meetings of the Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Food and Civil Supplies in States/UTs.

The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains meant for distribution in the areas covered under the RPDS is Rs. 50.00 per quintal lower than the CIP of foodgrains issued under normal PDS. Financial assistance is also given to States and UTs for purchase of vehicles for use either as door step delivery vehicles or as mobile fair price shops. Assistance is also provided to States/UTs for construction of godowns in the RPDS areas. Adequate quantity of foodgrains is allocated to the States for distribution in RPDS areas.

Review of PDS in backward areas

1768. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLES, CONSUMER, AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to undertake some review of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the backward areas of the country;

(b) whether requests have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c). Strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continual process. Central Government reviews the implementation of the Public Distribution System and the Revamped PDS (means for backward areas) with the State Governments and UT Administrations regularly.